

ARTICLE APPEARED  
ON PAGE A-10.

WILMINGTON NEWS JOURNAL (DE)  
31 January 1982

# U.S. keeping track of profs from abroad

FEDERAL OFFICIALS want to know exactly what 25 scholars visiting from the People's Republic of China are doing at the University of Delaware.

The White House has declared a campaign against what it calls a "hemorrhage" of technical national security research from being published by the academic community and leaked from its own agencies.

The key battle with the academic community may come over the government's decision to step up a program to monitor visiting scholars from the Soviet Union and People's Republic of China.

A consortium of government agencies, composed of the Defense, State, Commerce and Energy departments, has already distributed forms to at least 600 scholars visiting from the Chinese mainland.

The effort to monitor the work of visiting communist nationals in the university community is part of a unprecedented attempt by the Reagan administration to tighten up access to the potentially sensitive work of academic, government and business researchers.

So far, no one from the University of Delaware has received the forms, according to Dean C. Lomis, international student adviser. But a spokesman for the State Department said the department has mailed only about 10 percent of the forms it plans to send.

Although top CIA officials have been conducting a campaign against loss of technology expertise through leaks in university research, it is not clear whether the CIA is involved in the current investigation. CIA spokesman Dale Peterson would neither confirm nor deny any agency involvement in the monitoring of scholars.

Bobby R. Inman, the No. 2 official in the CIA, called two weeks ago for American and foreign researchers to let the government review their work to determine whether the results can be published or should be classified.

He warned that if the scientific community does not voluntarily submit to the CIA's request, the agency would push for congressional legislation making it mandatory.

James Oliver, a political science professor at the University of Delaware, agreed with other professors' assessment that the federal government is determined to classify much more research than it does now — either by assigning most of its research to secret work or by making "reviews" compulsory.

Oliver said the government's emphasis is part of the Reagan administration's efforts to stop high-level national security secrets from getting into the Soviet Union's hands.

The content of the forms being sent to universities depends on the government agency. They delve into the nature of the research and the scholar's competence, and ask if the research will be published.

The government agencies said they expect to mail up to 6,000 more forms soon.

State Department spokesman James Manard said the government has a great interest in learning the specifics of what visiting scholars working on classified research are doing.

Manard said a key area of interest is whether the United States may be losing its technological edge by exposing visiting scholars to the development of "trade secrets," even in privately financed work.

He said Chinese nationals are being singled out because the flood of Chinese applicants has prevented the U.S. government from taking an extensive look into their research backgrounds.

Manard said the Chinese scientists are being asked to provide up-to-date and more-detailed information, which then will be forwarded to the appropriate government agency.

Officials said each agency will determine whether to take action to remove scholars from research projects or force them to apply for a special Commerce Department agreement that protects U.S. interests.

The Commerce Department said it has sent out questionnaires to 30 institutions so far.

At least one University of Delaware official questions whether the school has to turn over any information on the visiting scholars there.

Lomis said the Educational Privacy Act of 1974 protects all students and professors from outsiders asking questions. The law, Lomis said, applies even to the State Department.

Lomis said that when the forms arrive, the university will have to decide whether it will claim protection under the law.

Mary Hempel, a university spokeswoman, said the school had no comment on what action it intends to take.

The Defense Department declined to elaborate on how it follows up on the questionnaires.

The controversy over the monitoring of the scholars heated up last year when a professor at the University of Minnesota refused to fill out the form, saying that the federal government had no right to even ask the questions.

The professor went to the local media, which, Manard said, "made a bigger issue out of it than it is." The State Department eventually was able to find out that the student was not involved in any high-technology research, he said.

— Janine Jaquet

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